

Snow Removal Policy

With winter now upon us, the City usually receives many questions about how we plow and/or salt our roads. This snow removal policy outlines the City's basic approach to managing snow events, with the primary goal of providing safety and service to residents while staying within budget. However, because weather events are unique and storms may change rapidly, the City reserves the right to depart from this policy as circumstances warrant.

PRIORITIES

Snow removal operations will generally be prioritized in the following order:

1. State Routes and thoroughfares (20 designated within the City)
2. Hazardously-sloped residential streets
3. Flat residential through streets
4. Other residential streets
5. Cul-de-sacs and dead ends

Priority 1 and 2 treatment costs the City approximately \$7,500 per pass, and each pass requires four to six hours to complete. If storms last for many hours, crews will complete multiple passes to ensure that emergency vehicles and the public can travel these roads before moving to other Priorities. Available treatment options include any combination of brining, wetting, salting, plowing, or de-icing. The actual treatment used will vary depending on road conditions, weather forecast, ambient temperatures, road surface and subsurface temperatures, and other factors.

Please note that the City does not commence snow removal activities for Priorities 3-5 unless accumulation is three (3) inches or greater. If accumulation reaches this threshold, the Service Department will begin to focus on Priority 3-5 streets as weather circumstances allow. Priority 3-5 treatment costs the City approximately \$18,000 per pass, and each pass requires eight to ten hours to complete. Treatment includes snow removal only. Residential streets are generally not salted unless extreme circumstances warrant doing so, but residential intersections may be salted if weather conditions warrant.

The City is not responsible for snow removal activities on private lots, private lanes, or private streets.

COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Whenever there is a danger of icy or snowy conditions on roads, the Service Department will monitor conditions. After regular working hours, the Police Department will also monitor road conditions and contact the Service Department when road conditions warrant attention.

When treatment is warranted, the Service Department will focus first on stabilizing all streets in a given priority level before moving to the next priority. For example, all Priority 1 streets should be stabilized before Priority 2 commences; all Priority 1 and 2 streets should be stable before Priority 3 commences, etc. ***Please Note: Only Priority 1 and 2 streets will be plowed/salted on overtime. All other streets will be treated, if needed, during regular business hours (7:00 AM to 3:30 PM).***

Using the Priority system above, our objective is to clear snow from curb-to-curb within the following time frames:

- 12-24 hours **from the end of snow events** where accumulation is three to six inches
- 24-36 hours **from the end of snow events** where accumulation is greater than six inches

Please remember that snow removal time is influenced by several factors including temperature, humidity, wind, traffic, road obstructions, equipment breakdowns, and overnight re-freezing of streets as temperatures fall. All of these factors vary significantly from one storm to the next.